

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001

Postal Rate Commission
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Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2006]

DOCKET NO. R2006-1

DAVID B. POPKIN MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORIES DBP/USPS-
253 AND 254

I move to compel responses to the interrogatories submitted to the United States Postal Service that have been objected to by them.

August 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

R20061MTC11A253254

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On July 10, 2006, I submitted Interrogatories DBP/USPS-253 and 254. On July 20, 2006, the Postal Service filed an objection to these interrogatories.

The interrogatories read as follows:

DBP/USPS-253 Please provide your best estimate of the percentage of processing facilities that provide overnight First-Class Mail service standards to all of the SCF or 3-digit ZIP Code destinations that have a transit time of three hours or less dock-to-dock and receive 1.5% or more of the originating volume of the facility.

DBP/USPS-254 [a] Please discuss why the "line" between First-Class Mail overnight and 2-day service is not complied with to the same extent as the "line" between 2-day and 3-day service standards is complied with.

[b] Please discuss any plans to improve the level of compliance for the overnight/2-day line.

The Postal Service objects to the interrogatories by stating they are not relevant to First-Class Mail costs or rates or to postal ratemaking in general.

The object of these Interrogatories is to evaluate the value of service of First-Class Mail. Presently, First-Class Mail is delivered throughout the country in either 1-, 2-, or 3- days. As such, there are two dividing lines, the first is between those areas that are overnight vs. 2-day delivery standard and the second line is between 2-days vs. 3 - day delivery standards.

The dividing line between the 2-day and 3-day service standards is one that is based on a 12-hour drive time between the processing facilities. The compliance with this criterion by the Postal Service seems to be fairly uniform throughout the country.

The dividing line between the overnight and 2-day service standard appears to be based on the consideration of those areas that are both within a 3-hour drive time and that receive at least 1.5% of the originating volume of the facility. Based on discovery in Docket N2006-1 and my understanding of my overnight delivery area, my local area does not even come close to meeting these guidelines.

In response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-6 in Docket N2006-1, the Postal Service provided some 27 SCFs that were within a 3-hour dock-to-dock drive time from the Northern New Jersey Metro P&DC in Teterboro, New Jersey. Ten of these facilities met the 1.5% or more of the originating volume of the facility criterion. However, the overnight service standard for the plant is limited to only five of these facilities located in Northern New Jersey.

The original interrogatory in Docket N2006-1 was limited to a single originating facility, both to obtain an idea of the response to determine what further evaluation was needed and appropriate and to limit the initial burden.

In POR-5 in Docket N2006-1, the Presiding Officer stated,

This being the case, it is reasonable for participants to pursue discovery that directs appropriately focused inquiries into actual performance achieved under the current standards, as a baseline for comparison with potential service changes that may result. Subparts (a), (b) and (e) of DBP/USPS-6 fit this description, and I shall direct the Postal Service to respond to them.

Since the Postal Service indicated in response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-6 in Docket N2006-1 an indication that there was a significant lack of following the overnight delivery standards for mail originating at the NNJ Metro P&DC. The next step to evaluate what level of meeting the

guidelines exists throughout the country. My Interrogatory DBP/USPS-253 was my effort to obtain an indication of what existed throughout the country and yet limit the burden of the Postal Service in providing the data. Obviously asking for similar data from all of the other processing facilities would probably have resulted in an objection of undue burden.

Interrogatory DBP/USPS-254 assumes that there will be less compliance between the overnight and 2-day line than there is between the 2-day and 3-day line and attempts to obtain an explanation for this difference and any plans to improve the level in the future.

These interrogatories are attempting to determine the degree to which the Postal Service complies with their own guidelines for the delivery standards of First-Class Mail. The extent to which they improve that level of compliance will affect the costs for First-Class Mail and the rates and value of service of that service. Postal ratemaking extends to the compliance with the guidelines for service and the actual service level that is provided.

For the reasons stated, I move to compel response to the referenced interrogatory since it is reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the rules of practice.

David B. Popkin August 2, 2006
